

Elizabeth Tarver

I am honored to nominate Elizabeth Tarver for a SPOT award for her contributions to LDEQ's Business and Community Outreach Division. Elizabeth is responsible for preparing the Department's Strategic Plan, Operational Plan and Performance Partnership Grant. The ongoing management and monitoring of these documents and the resulting flow of information is a key element to the documentation of performance for the entire agency; and is a necessary function that is interwoven with the department's budget (performance based budgeting). She is currently working with the Financial Services Division to facilitate the department's transition to the new government activity performance review process for FY 2011.

This brief introduction gives an overview of how complex and time consuming her duties are. Despite her tremendous work load, Elizabeth always finds time to assist others. For example, as part of federal stimulus funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program, LDEQ selected 55 wastewater improvement projects. These projects are under a federal deadline to begin construction. Missing this deadline could mean Louisiana forfeiting millions of dollars in federal funds. However, before construction can begin, the project must have completed the environmental review or qualified as categorical exclusion. The next step in the process involves reviewing plans and specifications to ensure compliance with applicable technical standards and the federal mandates. To meet the deadline, Elizabeth, assisted the SRF section in drafting categorical exclusion determination as well as preparing notices for public review and comment for these documents. After completing this task, Elizabeth then conducted administrative reviews of plans and specifications for 23 projects. The reviews consisted of ensuring that all provisions of



Elizabeth Tarver receiving her SPOT Award

federal stimulus funding are included in the plans and specifications.

Her assistance on these activities allowed engineers to concentrate on technical reviews, thereby shortening the review process and remaining on track to meeting the prescribed timeline. While working on SRF projects, another division that also received federal stimulus funding recruited Elizabeth to evaluate proposals that were submitted for that funding. Those of us who have known Elizabeth can attest to the fact that it is Elizabeth's nature and personality to offer assistance to her colleagues. Regardless of how busy she is, no one ever hears her complaining.

Zoila Osteicoechea

I'd like to nominate Zoila Osteicoechea for August's SPOT award. Zoila is an Environmental Scientist III in OEC/Surveillance – SERO. She's been with DEQ for nearly 20 years as a water inspector. Zoila is an EXCELLENT employee and team player. She is always willing to assist her co-workers. Recently, a valued member of our



Zoila Osteicoechea receiving her SPOT Award

surveillance water quality team switched divisions within DEQ. Zoila jumped right in and volunteered to take over her water quality responsibilities. This included deploying for continuous monitoring. It took Zoila several days to prepare for the monitoring and to deploy and retrieve the meter – never once did Zoila complain about taking on this extra task. She even had to figure out to hook up and install a scanner on her laptop to complete the monitoring – not a feat that everyone can do!

Zoila is bilingual (Spanish). This past month a member of the small business group (My Trinh) conducted a visit at a business where the owner did not speak any English. My returned to the office and asked Zoila if she could help him. Zoila changed her plans and went out into the field with small business and translated for My and the business owner. The New Orleans area has seen a huge increase in Hispanic population since Katrina and she has been known to do this in the past for Savannah Turner (a past DEQ employee) and me. She even translated the whole demolition guidance document into Spanish for all the contractors.

Our work group is currently short on air inspectors (we only have 1 in our group!) and Zoila has volunteered to help with some of the air complaints and incidents even though her experience is mainly in water.

Zoila is definitely a team player that fills in wherever DEQ, Surveillance or otherwise, needs her. She is deserving of a SPOT award.

Thanks for considering her.

Traci Green

I would like to nominate Traci Green for her work on the ConAgra permit. The application was submitted on Tuesday, 8/25/09, and the permit was issued on Thursday, 9/3/09. Her quick turnaround on this permit received praise from Louisiana Economic Development, ConAgra, and the LDEQ Executive Staff. This permit is for a new sweet potato processing plant in Delhi, Louisiana. This facility will create a number of jobs. It was very important to ConAgra to get this permit ASAP. According to the consultants, this permit was received in record time. Anyone who receives praise as below deserves a Spot Award!



Traci Green receiving her SPOT Award

Denise Stafford

I am nominating Denise Stafford of the Financial Services Division for a Spot Award. Denise is a dependable and dedicated employee who can always be counted on by her supervisor to carryout the task assigned. She provides the extra effort required to get the job done, no matter what the task or the time constraint. She performs any assignment without complaint, and makes herself readily available to answer any questions, be it from her employees, her supervisor, or other employees in the department.

Denise's most recent additional task with providing management with budget information and charts to be used for a presentation to the Streamlining Committee on Government given by Secretary Leggett. She worked diligently and without complaint, even putting in extra hours to provide this data. This project was assigned and executed within a week.

While working on this project, and in addition to her regular daily duties, she has also been juggling her time and efforts on these other special projects of note:

- Working diligently with the personnel of the Laboratory, Surveillance, Air Quality Management, and Water Quality Management Division's to ensure that a Request for Proposal for the department's laboratory analysis are properly in place and meets the analytical needs of the department.
- Working with the Legislative Auditor currently on site in providing the required information and explanations necessary for the Audit of the Financial Statements of the department.
- Working with the Accountant Administrator on implementing the new Accounting System to be implemented beginning July 1, 2010, and the new State Budget System that the state will be implementing effective with the new budget request that we have recently begun preparing.



Denise Stafford receiving her SPOT Award

Denise has willingly taken on these additional tasks, while continuing to supervise her own staff and performing her routine job responsibilities. She performs these responsibilities without complaint, and in a timely fashion.

For the reasons stated above, as well as for the years of dedication to this department, I would like to nominate Denise for the SPOT award.